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MYSURU Sunday 24th May 2020
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SOUTHERN STAR
MYSURU

Sunday Curfew Total

Mysuru, May 24 (MTY&BCT)- Call it 'Sunday Curfew' or 'Sunday Lockdown' or a '36-hour shutdown', the city's streets wore a deserted look, resembling a ghost town with an eerie silence and uneasy calm prevailing across its length and breadth while hundreds of Policemen kept a close vigil.

"A total lockdown is in force across the State since Saturday evening 7 pm to Monday morning 7 am. A ban under Section 144 of the CrPC has also been imposed to prevent movement of people and vehicles," a Police official said.

As decided by the State Government to contain the Coronavirus spread, the Sunday lockdown comes after a partial relaxation of restrictions on weekdays since May 19 to revive economic activity and restore near normalcy. The 36-hour lockdown received overwhelming response with people remaining inside their houses and not venturing to go outside unlike during previous similar situations.

Only essential services, including provision stores were allowed to function. Medical shops, sale of milk, vegetables, sweet meat stores and meat stalls were exempted from the bandh. Movement of vehicles including autorickshaw, bus service including private bus and KSRTC were banned. Except for a lone Shramik Special Train, no other transport service was available in city. Streets, bus stands wore a deserted look and people cooperated with the Government to maximum extent. Even markets were shut as most of the people had finished festival shopping yesterday.

Only ambulances and vehicles on essential duty were allowed to ply during the curfew period. Many people preferred to walk to buy essentials and meat instead of taking their vehicles out. As there was an indication yesterday that there will be no people around, even many essential items and grocery shops remained closed.

All main roads, flyovers and enter/exit points on the city outskirts have been barricaded to prevent vehicular movement. No untoward incident reported from any part of the State so far, according to Police. In effect, the curfew was similar to the first two phases of the lockdown when only essential services were allowed. The Police have put up barricades on most of the roads to deter people from venturing out.

Ramzan festival tomorrow

No mass prayers at Eidgah Maidan, Mosques in city

Mysuru, May 24 (KS)- With COVID-19 pandemic everywhere and lockdown rules in force, Muslim community members will celebrate Ramzan festival in a simple manner tomorrow in city.

At the Mysuru District Moon Committee meeting held yesterday at Apna Ghar in Shivarathreeshwara Nagar which was chaired by Sir Khazi of Mysuru Hazrath Moulana Mohammed Usman Shariff, the Committee that had collected information from various places decided to celebrate the festival on Monday as the moon was not sighted on Saturday. Fasting would continue for the last day today.

Meanwhile, All India Milli Council Mysuru Branch President Hazrath Moulana Mohammed Zakaulla, speaking to 'Star of Mysore' this morning, said that Ramzan would be celebrated tomorrow and added that there would be no mass prayers at Eidgah Maidan and Mosques.

Only the staff of Mosques (limited to four) would offer prayers at Mosques while others would offer prayers in their houses between 7 am and 11 am.

Sir Khazi of Mysuru

Mayor Tasneem had requested Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa to grant permission for Muslim brethren to offer mass prayers at Eidgah Maidan by maintaining social distance. But there is no communication from the CM's Office in this regard.

Speaking to *SOM*, Mayor Tasneem said that a request has been made to the State Government to allow limited persons to offer prayers at Eidgah Grounds and in Mosques who would be wearing face masks and maintain social distance. "We are waiting for the Government's decision," she said and added that every rule by the Government in this regard would be followed.

Festival shopping

With complete lockdown in force from 7 pm yesterday till 7 am tomorrow, Muslim community members completed their festival shopping before 7 pm yesterday.

Meena Bazaar, the festival shopping hub being closed due to COVID-19 pandemic, they had to depend on other places across the city for new garments, jewellery, footwear and other items.

People were seen thronging various shops on K.T. Street, Devaraja and Mandi Markets. While women thronged various shops for bangles, earrings, dresses, cosmetics and other items, men visited shops for perfumes (Attar), prayer mats, dresses and Namaz caps.

Khaleel, a resident of Mandi Mohalla, said that the outbreak of COVID has caused a lot of problems to everyone and added that he and his family would pray for the good health of all.

(See RAMZAN on page 6)

Alliance Air, TruJet to start Mysuru flights from May 25

Seven-day institutional quarantine mandatory for out-of-State passengers

File photo

Mysuru, May 24 (UNI)- Alliance Air, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Air India, is all set to commence flight operations from Mysuru from May 25 (Monday). The detailed schedule of the flight operations from May 25 to June 30 is available under Alliance Air section of www.airindia.in.

TruJet, a regional airline, too will operate daily flights between Mysuru-Belagavi from tomorrow.

According to a press note issued by Alliance Air, "The airline has tried to connect the maximum regional touchpoints across the country in its schedule so that the travellers have the convenient option to fly back to their roots, as soon as possible."

Among the regional connections with direct flight options are Kolhapur to Bengaluru, Mysuru to Goa, Mysuru to Kochi, Kochi to Agatti and Pune to Belagavi. Travellers from Hyderabad have an option of direct flights to Kolhapur, Mysuru and Pune. Likewise, Bengaluru flyers can take direct flights to Kochi, Kalaburagi and Mysuru.

The airline is adhering to all Government guidelines and will follow all Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(See FLIGHTS on page 5)

The 'saviours' of womenfolk

Two young Mysureans distribute 14,000 Menstrual Hygiene Kits

By B.N. Ramya

After the outbreak of the pandemic and the lockdown that followed, we were witness to people being rendered jobless and shelterless on one side; and the same situation on the other end brought to fore 'humanity' with many lending their helping hands to the needy fellowmen by distributing grocery kits. Amidst all these, forgotten were the womenfolk who were in need of good menstrual hygiene, which is still considered a taboo to speak out it public. Taking note of this, two young Mysureans — Manasa Rao and Dr. Sagarika Nithyanand — have taken up distribution of Menstrual Hygiene Kits.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore* about the initiative, Dr. Sagarika said: "With the outbreak of COVID-19, we noticed that everybody was distributing grocery kits but nobody was talking about menstrual hygiene. It was painful to note that majority of women have no access to sanitary products. This motivated Reachout India, a non-profit organisation founded by my friend, Manasa, to come out with menstrual hygiene kits, comprising sanitary pads (7 pads), bathing soap and hand sanitisers, to be distributed among daily wage and migrant workers. The kits, each costing approximately Rs.60, are hand-packed by volunteers using newspaper covers bought from the migrant workers who were sheltered at Nanjaraja Bahadur Choultry in Mysuru. During the distribution drive, volunteers even impart basic knowledge on how to use and dispose of a pad."

On how many needy people they had reached through this drive, she said: "We started off with a goal of distributing about 1,000 kits in Mysuru, but with the overwhelming support of the local community, today, we have distributed over 10,000 kits in Mysuru alone. Our largest distribution drive was at Bharatnagar slum where 2,080 kits were distributed door-to-door. We have been relying on ground-support from slum associations, local Corporators and organisations like Sri Sthanakvasi Jain Yuva Sanghatan and Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM)."

The other cities where we have distributed kits include Pune (1,000 kits), Dharavi Slum, Mumbai (2,500 kits) and 500 kits in Refugee camps in Delhi, she said adding that recently, a team of doctors including Dr. Nikita Soans (Dermatologist), Dr. Shibina Shetty, (Paediatrician) and Dr. Sagarika Nithayanad (Physician) also conducted a medical camp at Erakunty as part of their follow-up programme.

Explaining about the plight of women they came across during their ground research, she said: "After the first round of distribution, we learnt that as they did not have money, a lot of daily wage/ migrant workers were reusing disposable pads and using alternatives such as dried cow dung, coconut husks and rag cloth. Even if they had some money, they preferred to spend it on their children. This incident was an eye-opener as it brought to light the abysmal living conditions of women during a pandemic and the lack of attention to menstrual hygiene. In a lot of slums, we found out that women often resorted to burning, burying or flushing it down their toilets."

Dustbins and Manual

"During our drive, at one place, we noticed that women were disposing of the sanitary pads in a water channel and the same water channel was used for bathing and cleaning vessels too, which was extremely unhygienic. We thought there was no point in educating them about proper disposal of sanitary pads as we found that there were no dustbins at some places. Hence, we plan to install dustbins, specifically for sanitary pads in different locations in Mysuru and in slums where there are no waste management systems in place, with the help of MCC," she said.

Explaining about their future plans, she said: "We noticed that many young girls, who are 12-13 years of age, and just started their periods, are really unaware of how to deal with it. Most of them are shy to talk about it even to their mothers and hence, the chances of them getting right information about menstrual hygiene are very less. So, we are thinking of introducing a Menstrual Hygiene Manual for local Government Schools as part of their curriculum."

Manasa Rao, a 24-year-old lawyer and Development Practitioner, is the daughter of C.R. Hanumanth and Vaishali Hanumanth of DRC Cinemas. She graduated from Symbiosis Law School, Pune and Co-Founded Reachout India in 2015.

Dr. Sagarika Nithyanand, a 28-year-old doctor, is the daughter of MRC Chairman Dr. N. Nithyanand Rao and Dr. Sanmati Nithyanand. She graduated from K.S. Hegde Medical Academy, Mangaluru and is currently working with Asha Kirana Charitable Hospital, Mysuru, serving people affected with HIV and its opportunistic infections.

Support system

A team of 15 volunteers, all aged between 22-28 years, regularly participated in the drive. They include Krishna Rao, Dr. Sahas Nithyanand, Ishraq Fazal, Shariq Fazal, Dev Devaiah, Casuarina D'sa, Disha Prasad, Anek Chugh, Rachita Prabhu, Pradyumna Devraj, Dr. Shradha Surana, S.P. Abhinav, Nikita Rajpal, Pratheek Poovaiah and Mohit Bekal.

"Our drive could reach larger section of women with the support of volunteers. All have full time jobs. They are working from home and take some time off to come and help in the drive. Initially, we put money from our pockets. Then we started making posters and posted it on Facebook and Intagram seeking donations. We got good support from the local community through their donations in both cash and kind. A few people from Mysuru who contributed to our cause in a big way include Arjun Ranga, NR Group, C.R. Shashidhar, DRC Cinemas, M.N. Padaki, Chethan Prasad, Sunil Kumar, H.V. Prasad, Adarsh and B.G. Muthappa," said Dr. Sagarika expressing her gratitude to all of them.

About Reachout India

It is a non-profit organisation headquartered in Pune, with branches in Mysuru, Delhi and Mumbai. Its objective is to empower the underprivileged through two interventions: a children's education initiative (Project Rise) and a women empowerment wing. Project Rise aims at changing the public education landscape by improving the workings of local Government Schools. The women empowerment programme focuses on providing free legal aid for survivors of domestic abuse through 24x7 helpline and runs projects to improve women's health and well-being. Those interested in contributing to Reachout India can contact Mob: 98862-45000.

VOICE OF THE READER

Shoddy rehab house works in Kodagu: Is there any end to corruption?

Sir,

Apropos the article **"Kodagu flood victims fuss over shoddy rehab house works"** (*Star of Mysore* dated May 21), the flood victims are already devastated by the loss of house, property and means of livelihood. Many have been rendered homeless.

To add insult to injury, the houses that have been built for them are as good/bad as other public works that are executed by "authorised" Contractors.

Is there any end to corruption in our country, where even calamities are seen as opportunities by the powers that be?

— D.R. Shivram

Mysuru
23.5.2020

SSLC exams are in the interest of students: Minister

Suresh Kumar

Bengaluru, May 24- Maintaining that the SSLC exam is a turning point for students and also a stepping stone for them in their further academic pursuits, Primary and Secondary Education Minister S. Suresh Kumar asserted that the Board exam is being conducted only in the interest of students and not for the sake of the Government's self-esteem.

In a talk with AIR (All India Radio), Suresh Kumar highlighted how important SSLC exam is in the academic career of students. Pointing out that most of the students he had talked to wanted the exam to be conducted, he said that all other stakeholders such as parents, academic experts, writers, Teacher Constituency Legislative Council members etc., too favoured the conduct of Board exam.

Stating that the postponed SSLC exam is now scheduled to commence from June 25, he said that the Department is taking all precautionary and safety measures for safe conduct of the exam.

Stressing on the need for maintaining social distance at the centres, he said that the number of students has been restricted to 20 in each Hall and the authorities have been directed to engage an additional 8,000 Halls that can accommodate all students in compliance with social distancing measures.

Asserting that the Government was committed to bring changes and introduce educational reforms in accordance with the current needs, he clarified that there will be no exam centre in any COVID-19 Containment Zone in the State.

Migrant students can write SSLC exam at nearest centre

May 29 deadline to choose new centre

Bengaluru, May 24 (KMS & DM)- With most migrant students returning to their villages following the COVID-19 lockdown, the Government has allowed such SSLC students to write the exams at the centre that is closest to their native place or village.

The SSLC exam (2019-20) is scheduled to take place from June 25 to July 4.

The Government, after giving permission to migrant students to write exam at the nearest centre, had set May 25 as the deadline for choosing the new centre. But now, this deadline has been extended up to May 29.

Once the students choose their centre, that will be the final one and there is no option to return back to the centre which they were allotted during the course of study in schools.

Soon after their new centre is confirmed, the students can get the Hall ticket that mentions their chosen centre, from the Heads of the Institution which they have studied, through WhatsApp. As an alternative, the students can also get their Hall ticket from the BEO Office of the taluk in which their chosen centre is located, by giving the Hall ticket number.

MUDA takes up Vijayanagar Double Road development works

Mysuru, May 24 (RK&DM)- In a significant step towards improving the condition and capacity of roads in the city, District Minister S.T. Somashekar on Friday launched the works for the development and widening of 3.15-km-long Double Road that connects Vijayanagar I Stage with the Ring Road at Hebbal.

The construction is taken up by MUDA at a cost of Rs.5 crore. The road that starts from Kalidasa Road in Vijayanagar I Stage, passes through Vijayanagar Water Tank, Abhishek Circle and Hebbal CITB Choultry to touch the Ring Road at Hebbal.

The works include widening of the road, construction of median, construction of storm water drainage along both sides of the road, footpath and other minor works. The previous coalition Government had given administrative approval for the Rs. 5 crore project on July 25, 2018.

Minister Somashekar, who performed *Guddali Puja* near Madegowda Circle in Hebbal, later told presspersons that more development works will be launched in the city in the coming days.

Vehicle checking intensified at check-posts

Lauding the District Administration for effectively controlling the spread of the deadly Coronavirus, he said that vehicle checking at all check-posts on the district border will continue as usual and there is no question of any relaxation.

Noting that COVID-19 positive cases are on the rise in neighbouring Hassan and Mandya districts, he said that checking will be intensified in the wake of permission for inter-district travel.

Pointing out that the thermal screening of all persons entering the district will continue as usual, he said he has asked the authorities to conduct more intensive checks on people coming from Mandya as the district has turned out to be the latest hotspot of the deadly virus.

Stating that he would appeal Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai to order more stricter measures at all district border check-posts, he said that all preventive measures will continue even though the district is free of the virus.

MLA L. Nagendra, Corporators M.U. Subbaiah, Lakshmi Shivanna, Prema Shankaregowda and K.V. Sridhar, former Corporator M.Shivanna, MUDA Commissioner D.B. Natesh, MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde, MUDA SE Shankar, EE Suvarna, AEE H.P. Shivanna, BJP leader Kiran Gowda and others were present.

Government permits extra work hours at Factories till Aug. 21

Bengaluru, May 24- In a significant decision aimed at improving industrial productivity which has taken a severe beating due to COVID-19 lockdown, the State Government on Friday exempted establishments coming under the Factories Act from adhering to prescribed daily and weekly hours. Workers will now have to put in more hours of work in factories across the State. The exemption will be valid for a three-month period till Aug.21, 2020. In a notification, the Government allowed factories to make employees work for 10 hours a day and 60 hours a week. However, the factories are not exempted from paying extra wages for working extra hours.

At present, Section 51 of the Factories Act limits working hours to 48 hours a week and Section 54 keeps it a maximum of nine hours per day.

Labour Minister Shivaram Hebbar told mediapersons that the notification will be placed before the next Cabinet meeting for approval. The exemption has already been given in five other States to help industries tide over the economic crisis caused by COVID lockdown, he added.

Obituary

N. Janardhan

Mysuru, May 24 - N. Janardhan (63), Hon. President of Mysuru District Newspaper Distributors Association and a resident of Sunnadakeri near Siddappa Square, passed away yesterday night at a private hospital in city. He leaves behind his wife, two sons, daughter-in-law and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites will be performed tomorrow in city.

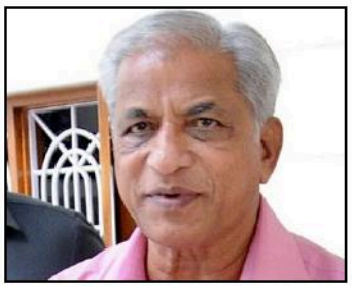
S. R. Nagaraja Setty

S. R. Nagaraja Setty (85), a resident of Dattagalli 3rd Stage, H-Block, Kanakadasa Nagar, passed away yesterday in city.

He leaves behind five daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill yesterday, according to family sources.

Prof. K.S. Bhagawan's book selected for Award



Prof. K.S. Bhagawan

Mysuru, May 24- 'Rama Mandira Yeke Beda?,' authored by Prof. K.S. Bhagawan and 'Arive Pramanu' authored by Mahanthappa Nandur Hubbali have been selected for the award given by Srimati Amaramma Sri Channabasavappa Bettaduru Pratishtana, Raichur, for best book on rationalism and Vachana literature.

The awards carries a cash prize of Rs.5,000 each.

The award ceremony, which was scheduled to take place on June 13, has been postponed to next year, owing to Corona pandemic, according to a press release from Pratishtana President H.S. Patil.

IN BLACK & WHITE

Vikram Muthanna

FM-in-waiting ...forever?

In a recent interview on a TV channel Dr. Subramanian Swamy, economist and BJP Member of Parliament, reiterated his opinion that this Government had no economic policy, does not know what it is up against and warned that the Indian economy would crash like 1930's United States if cash is not put in the hands of consumers.

This reminded me of the 'Spend Mantra' of the US President George W. Bush after the September 11 terror attack. The US President, fearing that the economy, which was in decline since March of that year would further spiral down rapidly after 9/11, urged Americans to spend money. Bush said, *"Get down to Disney World in Florida…Take your families and enjoy life, the way we want it to be enjoyed."* And people did.

According to *The New York Times*, after this call by Bush, personal consumption expenditure increased significantly and by end of November of that year, 8 months after the recession had begun it had ended!

So may be Dr. Swamy is right when he says, "Many economies around the world are driven by consumers."

He also made another suggestion, "Build 8-lane Highways from Delhi to Chennai, Delhi to Kolkata…build roads in villages so people can get work and get paid." This reminded me of the 'Work Projects Administration' programme.

This programme was launched by the US Government during the depression to employ people, pay them and by that increase consumerism while also building infrastructure for the country.

Under this programme, millions of Americans were employed who went on to build thousands of schools, hospitals, bridges, storm drains, airfields and roads. This not only put money in people's pockets but later helped America prosper. As the late President Kennedy acknowledged saying: *"It is not wealth that built our roads but roads that built our wealth."*

So seems like Dr. Swamy is suggesting similar solutions. But will it work in COVID-19-2020 India? And who will undertake such a risky experiment? Well, why not Dr. Swamy? He seems willing and has been waiting…and waiting for a while now.

In January of this year at the 8th edition of *The New Indian Express* ThinkEdu Conclave" in Chennai when he was asked why his party, the BJP, does not acknowledge that the economy is in a bad shape, Swamy said: *"You said I am the best Finance Minister (FM) we never had. You tell Mr. Modi to try and experiment with me."*

Dr. Swamy has missed the FM's position quite a few times. From the time of late PM Chandrasekhar to Vajpayee's NDA Government to the present Modi Government, he keeps missing the chair. But Dr. Swamy being Swamy never gives up.

A year ago on May 22 Dr. Swamy tweeted, *"If Modi wants 10 percent per year growth in GDP for next 5 years he should hand me the MoF (Ministry of Finance)."*

Then a week later on May 29th he put out another dejected tweet, *"May be instead of Chowkidar I should affix Mazdoor because I constructed a multi-storeyed building for the party by fighting all these cases but do not get a luxury apartment to live in it. Lord Krishna explained why to Arjuna after the war." Well, he was probably alluding to the statement in the Bhagavad Gita where Krishna tells Arjuna, "You are not entitled to the fruits of your actions."*

Just earlier this month, speaking to journalist Betwa Sharma, Dr. Swamy said, *"I'm the second most popular person in the party today after Modi — he just can't keep me out, especially when I'm highly trained in economics. I need to be in the economic decision-making. For all my long sacrifice, fighting the Emergency, fighting corruption…There must be some sense of reward. I'm not saying that I should get whatever I want, but there should be some proportion to the contribution I've made."*

Dr. Swamy almost sounds like an over-achieving student in class, who when the teacher says she is going to pick a class monitor, keeps raising his hands shouting "pick me, pick me" but is constantly ignored, even though he is sitting in the front bench, right in front of the teacher, his hands right in her face. He knows he is deliberately being ignored but still continues to try hoping the teacher will feel bad and pick him.

So will the BJP and PM Modi pick him sooner or later? Highly improbable. For four reasons.

First — Litigator. Dr. Swamy was never accepted into BJP for his "economic" prowess, but for his litigiousness. He can litigate the hell out of anyone. He has done more for BJP in terms of bringing down the Congress and the corrupt than any other BJP member.

Second — Trust deficit. Dr. Swamy once said RSS is an anti-national organisation, the quicker it is disintegrated the better for India. Yes, RSS may have forgiven that remark, but we don't think they have forgotten it. Oh! And then there is the memory of "Swamy's tea party" that brought down the first NDA Government.

Third — Laundry service. Everyone fears people who wash dirty linen in public and Dr. Swamy is known to perform a full-on laundry service at the city square. The PM already got a sample when Dr. Swamy said, *"He (Modi) doesn't want me. He doesn't want any Minister to talk back to him, let alone in public, but in private cabinet meetings too."*

Four — Ego occupancy is at full. Obviously, Dr. Swamy feels the PM has an ego problem. On the other we doubt if Dr. Swamy is open to other peoples' opinions and suggestions either? Didn't he declare that Nirmala Sitharaman, a qualified economist, *"does not know economics?"* Dr. Swamy should know there is room for only one person's ego in the Government; and it's taken. There is no room for a second.

That said many middle class Indians would like to see Dr. Swamy as FM. If not for anything else then at least to see if he can put his money where his mouth is. Especially his claim of, *"If I am in the Government, I will do it within one week."* He was talking about abolishing Income Tax.

If doors to powerful offices have to open then one has to keep their mouth closed, and that is an impossibility for Dr. Swamy. That is why he may always be left waiting…his hands raised saying, "pick me, pick me..." but never to be.

P.S: If you still want to see Dr. Swamy as FM, you can start by signing a petition floated by a few people on 'Change.org - Make Subramanian Swamy the Finance Minister of India.' Interestingly for a man who boasts of having 9 million followers on twitter and being the second most popular leader after Modi in BJP, still two years after this petition was posted only 486 have signed it! There's a reality check for people who feel powerful based on their social media followers. Oops!

Guess the old adage is right — **Never mistake visibility for credibility.**

e-mail: vikram@starofmysore.com

Several couples get married in Mysuru on Lockdown Sunday

Mysuru, May 24 (RKB&BCT)- Several couples got married in Mysuru today, while the Karnataka Government announced a complete lockdown on Sundays, as part of the fourth phase of COVID-19 shutdown till the end of this month.

The marriage ceremonies were possible thanks to a clarification given by the State Government for marriages, which has been already scheduled for May 24 and May 31 to be exempted from the Sunday complete lockdown.

While two couples got married in Sri Yoganarasimhaswamy Temple at Vijayanagar First Stage, one couple tied the knot inside Sri Lakshmivenkataramanaswamy Temple in Vontikoppal. Another pre-decided wedding was performed at Chikkamma Niketana Kalyana Mantapa in Kuvempunagar.

According to the belief in the region, weddings during this time ahead of the Ashaada Month is considered auspicious. At today's wedding, the rituals were performed with compliance of all guidelines including ensuring social distancing and capping the number of guests at 50. However, masks were not worn by anyone inside the Chikkamma Niketana Kalyana Mantapa where Vallish from Chamarajanagar and Sreevidya from Bengaluru got married.

Nagendra, a relative of Vallish said that they had booked the Choultry four months back. "The Government has allowed weddings with up to 50 people in attendance but we decided to invite only 45 people to the ceremony," he said.

Despite the Government making clear that pre-scheduled weddings would be allowed on Sundays till May 31, fearing action, the two couples who got married at Sri Yoganarasimhaswamy Temple in Vijayanagar arrived at the Temple as early as 4 am and concluded the rituals by 8.30 am. "We did not want the Police to play a spoilsport and we finished early. Guests were served snacks and all vacated the premises by 9.30 am," said a relative.

At Sri Lakshmivenkataramanaswamy Temple, Ramachari from Bengaluru and Aishwarya from Kumbarakoppal in Mysuru tied the knot with a handful of guests blessing them. They sported face masks throughout the ceremony. As it is an auspicious period, many couples got married at their homes, making it a simple affair.

Qatar doctor brings back husband's body to Mysuru

Engineer dies on foreign soil; after much struggle, last rites held at family farm

Mysuru, May 24 (BCT)- An engineer from Mysuru, who had been to Qatar to see his doctor wife, died of a heart attack in foreign soil. His body was brought to Bengaluru on Friday under the Vande Bharat Mission, thanks to the efforts of the Union and State Governments and Kannada organisations in Qatar. The last rites were conducted at the family's estate on H.D. Kote Road yesterday.

Arun Lal

Arun Lal, a resident of New Kantharaj Urs Road in Mysuru, had been to Qatar to see his wife Dr. Rekha who was serving there. He could not return to India even after his visit due to lockdown and was stay put there.

He died of a heart attack on May 15 and Dr. Rekha wanted to bring his body to Mysuru for the last rites. The Karnataka Government by then had passed an order that the bodies of people dying in a foreign land cannot be brought back to the State. The decision was taken as a precautionary measure amidst spiralling cases of COVID-19. Even Air India denied permission to take the dead body to India.

However, this decision affected Dr. Rekha's plans as she could not bring Arun Lal's body though it was a genuine reason. Learning about the doctor's plight, Subramanya Hebbagilu, Mahesh Gowda and others of Qatar Kannada Sangha helped Dr. Rekha to secure a certificate saying that Dr. Arun Lal did not die of COVID-19 but of a heart attack.

Later, Dr. Rekha approached the Indian Embassy in Qatar, Air India officers and the officials of Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru. When all efforts proved futile, Dr. Rekha and the Kannada Sangha members reached out to Union Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda who used his good offices in the Union Ministry to bring back the body home.

Sadananda Gowda secured permission from the Union Civil Aviation Ministry to transport Arun Lal's body to Bengaluru in a passenger plane. Under normal circumstances, Air India does not carry dead bodies in a passenger aircraft but in the extraordinary circumstances and due to lockdown restrictions, the national carrier obliged out of humanitarian grounds.

The Minister had secured special permission for Air India to carry the body from Qatar to Bengaluru. Accordingly, Arun Lal's remains were brought to Bengaluru on Friday evening and it was brought to Mysuru by road the same night. The last rites were performed at the family's property on H.D. Kote Road yesterday morning, confirmed family sources.

All he could do was to watch his dying dad's photo on phone

A heart-rending story of a man who could not return to his native village to perform his father's last rites

Mysuru, May 24 (YDS&SD)– Aging process and death are inevitable to every human being and we all wish to stand by the deathbed of our dear ones and share grief with our family and friends. This man, however, was deprived of that, thanks to lockdown. All he could do was just watch his father's last photo on his mobile phone and mourn hundreds of miles away from his home. Asif, a resident of Gadag, came to Mysuru to work as a Tonga rider. Despite hearing about the death of his father, Asif could not return to Gadag. All he could do was watch his father's photo on his mobile phone and pay his last respects from Mysuru.

Asif

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Asif said, "After having stroke thrice in the last five years, my father had been treated at a hospital in Chikkanaragunda near Gadag district. He had recuperated well but two months ago he again had a stroke and was totally bed-ridden. He died on April 20. Unfortunately, in the month of March, I had come to Mysuru in search of a job and was working as a Tonga rider. As there was travel restrictions due to lockdown, I could not return to my native Gadag to perform his last rites. All I could do just watch my father's photograph on my mobile phone and mourn."

Since the past eight years, Asif had been a Tonga rider in Gadag. He says he was working with one Mohammad Ali in Gadag and earning Rs. 500 per day. Recently, he had come to Mysuru in search of a better opportunity. He had been riding a Tonga and had started earning Rs. 600 a day after he started working with Chinnappa.

Within 15 days of his arrival to Mysuru, lockdown restrictions were imposed. As a result, Asif could neither earn money here nor return to his native. He had to spend his day and night at Shah Pasand Sarot and Tonga Stand located near Kukkarahalli Lake. For his daily bread, Asif depended on donors.

Mysuru flights starts from May 25

(Continued from page 1)

The focus will be on ensuring physical distance between passengers and minimising contagion through contact and through frequently-touched surfaces.

Precautionary measures will be taken within the aircraft as well at the time of check-in, boarding and arrival at the destination. The aircraft will be rigorously disinfected after each flight to eliminate any risk of contagion. Light vegetarian refreshments are served on Alliance Air flights.

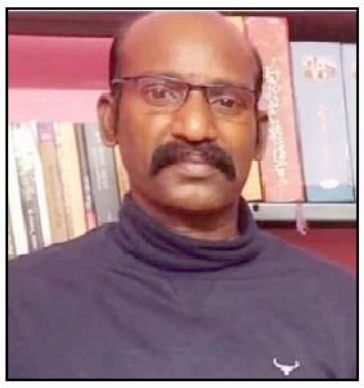
Meanwhile, the Karnataka Government yesterday made it mandatory for travellers, who were coming from high-density COVID-19 cases States, to undergo institutional quarantine for a minimum of seven days.

The Karnataka Health Authorities released a fresh protocol procedure for people coming from high-reported COVID-19 States, including Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

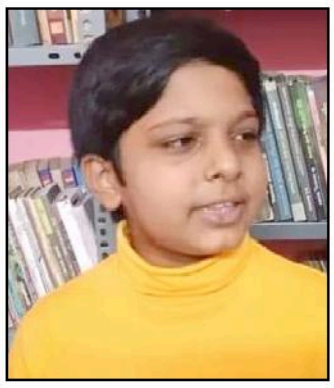
As per the new guidelines, the passengers, who were coming from high-density COVID States, would be sent for a minimum seven days institutional quarantine immediately after they landed in the State. Those who would complete the quarantine would have to undergo an additional seven days of home quarantine. As for pregnant women, children below 10 years of age and those aged above 80 also have been exempted from going to institutional quarantine. Businessmen coming for the State on urgent work would also be exempted from undergoing institutional quarantine if they produce a certificate for testing negative for COVID from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-recognised labs, issued two days prior to their visit to the State.

Corona Bandaite Jopaana: Folk song on Coronavirus goes viral

Dr. Vijayalakshmi Manapur



P. Premkumar Wellington



P. Praneel

Mysuru, May 24- A song written, composed and sung by a College Lecturer with a folk touch on Coronavirus has gone viral. Dr. Vijayalakshmi Manapur, a lecturer working in Maharaja's College in city, has not only written the song titled 'Corona Bandaite Jopaana,' she has also composed music and sung the folk song much to the delight of people living in rural areas and as a result, the song has become an instant hit in social media.

Her husband P. Premkumar Wellington, whose mother-tongue is Tamil, has also translated the song into Tamil (Coronavin Karappu Nilal) and has sung the Tamil version. And their son P. Praneel has sung the Hindi version (Corona Mahamari Ka). All the three versions of this composition are popular now.

Dr. Vijayalakshmi is an expert on folk and teaches folk subjects in her College. "Over 80 percent of our population live in rural areas. I wanted to create awareness about this deadly virus among rural folk. I thought folk tune would be a good idea and hence wrote the song, composed the music with folk touch and sung it. This song has now reached rural households in Karnataka," she said.

The Tamil version of the same song has also been a hit. Her husband Premkumar, who works in Mysore Akashavani, is delighted about this. Interestingly, the Hindi version of the song sung by their son Pranil has now reached other parts of the country through their friends in Delhi, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.

Ramzan festival tomorrow

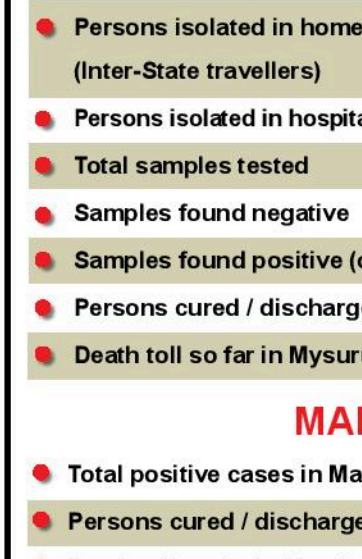
(Continued from page 1)

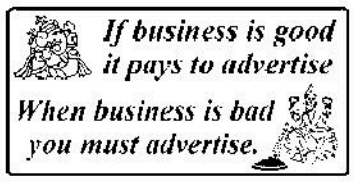
Khaleel further said that children above the age of seven, women and men have been fasting in this holy month and added that in this present situation, health of everyone is important than the grand celebrations.

Ramzan kits

Meanwhile, various organisations distributed Ramzan kits to needy Muslim people. MLA L. Nagendra along with Mayor Tasneem distributed nearly 600 Ramzan kits at the Government Nizamia Bodyguard High School premises on Ashoka Road. Needy people were identified in Ward 25 and Ward 26 and Ramzan kits were distributed to them.

B.Y. Vijayendra Yediyurappa Abhimani Balaga too distributed kits to the needy at Jayanagar. Balaga leader and former Taluk Panchayat President L.R. Mahadevaswamy distributed kits and dry fruits.





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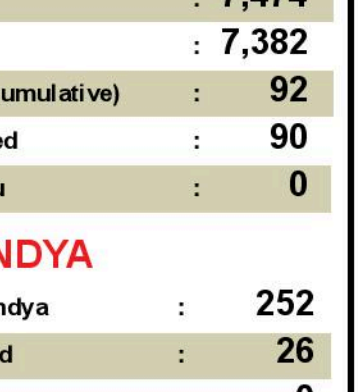

National-level Online Faculty Development Programme

Mysuru, May 24- Seshadripuram Degree College, Mysuru, had organised a National-level Online Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on 'New Performance Appraisal System and Career Advancement Scheme' on May 22.

Around 500 participants from across the State had registered for the FDP. M.K. Shalini, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science, welcomed the Resource Person Prof. K. Sajjath, NAAC Coordinator and Associate Professor, Department of English, Government Science College, Bengaluru.

The resource person enlightened the participants on various methods of assessment, methodology, criteria and evaluation process. He highlighted on the need of research and Ph.D that will be made mandatory in the Universities shortly.

The participants had a question and answer session through which they were given a chance to clarify their queries and doubts.

R. Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, proposed a vote of thanks. All the participants were issued an e-certificate after the webinar.

New Sand Policy guidelines notified in State Gazette

Bengaluru, May 24- The Department of Industries and Commerce has notified the guidelines in respect of the State Government's New Sand Policy-2020 in the State Gazette.

The State Cabinet had approved the new sand policy during the Cabinet meeting on April 30 and subsequently, Governor Vajubhai R. Vala has given his consent.

As per the guidelines detailed in the Gazette notification, sand mining and sale of sand will henceforth be done under the close watch of Government agencies. The Department of Mines and Geology, in association with Revenue and other Departments concerned, will identify sand deposits along lakes, rivers and other water bodies and submit a scientific report to the District Committee.

The Committee will go through the report and give permission to the respective Gram Panchayat for sand mining. The sand miners will have to sell sand only at the rate fixed by the Government and not above that. A five-year licence can be issued for sand extraction along rivers, reservoirs and backwaters. The sand so extracted will have to be transported to required destinations only in GP-enabled heavy vehicles such as lorries and sand extracted from lakes, ponds and other minor water bodies at the Taluk-level will have to be transported in bullock carts and tractors.

Also the sand extracted must be delivered based only on online bookings made by customers. The policy also gives scope for continuation of sand mining in Patta lands. The policy envisages constitution of a High-powered Committee headed by the State Chief Secretary to monitor the compliance of the policy guidelines by sand miners.

This apart, there will be District-level Committees headed by the respective Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and Taluk-level Committees headed by the respective Assistant Commissioners (ACs) for continuous monitoring of the entire sand extraction and transportation process, which include identification of sand blocks and deposits, mining operations, transportation and delivery, sale price etc.

COVID-19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	5,607
Persons who have completed 14 days' isolation	:	5,112
Persons isolated in home for 14 days (Inter-State travellers)	:	493
Persons isolated in hospital for active cases	:	2
Total samples tested	:	7,474
Samples found negative	:	7,382
Samples found positive (cumulative)	:	92
Persons cured / discharged	:	90
Death toll so far in Mysuru	:	0

MANDYA

Total positive cases in Mandya	:	252
Persons cured / discharged	:	26
Death toll so far in Mandya	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	2,089
Persons cured / discharged	:	654
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	42
Total active cases in India	:	73,560
Persons cured / discharged	:	54,440
Death toll so far in India	:	3,867

(Note: Mysuru figures as on May 23. Media bulletin for May 24 not available)

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